We claim:

The use of chroman derivatives of the formula I, 5

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15 in which the substituents, independently of one another, have the following meanings:

> \mathbb{R}^1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12} -alkyl,

20 \mathbb{R}^2 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12} -acyl,

 \mathbb{R}^3 and \mathbb{R}^4

are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂-alkyl,

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R5 is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, aryl

in cosmetic or dermatological preparations.

30 2. The use of chroman derivatives as claimed in claim 1, in which

is hydrogen, C₁-C₃-alkyl,

35 is hydrogen, C1-C3-acyl,

 ${\tt R}^3$ and ${\tt R}^4$

are C_1-C_3 -alkyl and

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is hydrogen, C₁-C₃-alkyl.

The use of a chroman derivative as claimed in claim 1 having the formula Ia

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Ia.

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$$HO$$
 H_3C
 CH_3
 CH_3
 $COOH$

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The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 for prophylaxis against aging processes of the human skin.

The use as claimed in claim 4 for prophylaxis against dry skin, wrinkle formation and/or pigment disorders.

6. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 for prophylaxis against aging processes of human hair.

7. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein at least one of the compounds of the formula I is present in an effective content in cosmetic preparations.

The use as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of the compounds of the formula I is present in concentrations of from 0.01 to 30% by weight, based on the total amount of the cosmetic preparation.

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A cosmetic preparation for protecting the human epidermis or human hair, which comprises, in a cosmetically suitable carrier, a cosmetically effective amount of at least one of the compounds of the formula I

$$R^{2}O$$
 R^{3}
 R^{4}
 $COOR^{5}$

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in which the substituents R^1 to R^5 have the meanings defined according to either claim 1 or 2.

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10. A cosmetic preparation as claimed in claim 9, comprising a cosmetically effective amount of the compound of the formula Ia

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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ \text{HO} \\ \\ \text{H}_3\text{C} \\ \\ \text{CH}_3 \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{COOH} \\ \\ \text{COOH} \\ \end{array}$$

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